

tion. If either of the gentlemen, [Messrs. Thomas and Johnson] entertained such an opinion, they then never breathed it. And now you find these gentlemen all working together; and my friend from Emmitsburg, [Mr. Annan,] with his *weight* of character, bringing up the whole of the forces together. Well, what do they go for? Representation according to population, giving Baltimore a fair proportion. But my friend on the left does not want any districting about it.

MR. GWINN. I go for districting the whole State, but not the city of Baltimore.

MR. BLAKISTONE. I want to know when these gentlemen became such radical reformers, and in favor of representation according to population. Did they take the ground of the gentleman from Frederick? How long was it since they became reformers?

My friend, (Mr. Biser,) has been in the legislature almost ten times in succession. Did he start out with representation according to population? Oh, no sir—no such thing, not a word of it. My friend from Washington, (Mr. Schley) who so ably represents it, in 1838 represented Frederick. How did he come here? Why, as the bold champion of Constitutional reform—but the avowed opponent of Conventional reform—he opposed it before the people, and was of the opinion that I was too, that the legislature could make all the reform that was necessary in Maryland. But changes come over some men's dreams. Another change, and we find the whigs and democrats each trying to get the whip hand of the other, as they would in a jockey race, inducing people to believe that they are the real friends of the people. So much for those gentlemen.

Now, we will take this matter in regular progression. We will take our friends from Washington, who had the hip and thigh race. The same watch word was adopted—representation according to population, so far as the counties were concerned, giving Baltimore city the same representation as the largest county and no more. Will these honorable gentlemen carry out this Washington county platform, as they call it? Will they fulfil the public pledges given to their constituents while canvassing for seats upon this floor? I hope they will. Yet I must be permitted to say that rumor, with her thousand tongues, is whispering in our ears that they will not. Their recorded votes must decide the issue.

What else do you want, gentlemen? Why, we would like to have the clerks and registers elected by the people. What else? Why, we would like to have the judges elected by the people. And what else? Why, Washington county on the subject of reform is ten thousand leagues ahead of the world. What do you suppose she has done? A most magnificent array of parties that was ever seen in Washington county, marching with banners and flags, and all the insignia of party, was in the field to elect their constables. Each district sent forth its full strength, and the whig party, as I learn, was most triumphantly successful.

Is there an instance on record any where to be found, that comes up to this standard of reform in that county? I acknowledge myself behind the times—they are ahead of all the rest; but if they would stop, and let us have three days use of the telegraph, we might catch up with them. Now, how this matter is to be arranged is the next question. Why, I take this ground: We ought to agree upon some Conventional basis which should entitle each county to two members—that is that no county shall have less than two representatives. It seems to be conceded on all hands that no county shall have less. Then we can agree upon that. I do not believe that any man can introduce a plan upon which all men can agree, out and out.

Then, the next question is, what are you going to do with Baltimore?—for they want more. You must do one of two things; you must say arbitrarily, that each county shall have so many additional, or fix a basis of representation out of which the number shall be arrived at. Now, what is the number you shall fix? That is the question; and I do humbly apprehend that if you will go to work and take the initiatory step, give to each county a Senator and two representatives, and then fix a basis for Baltimore city and the counties—so that according to my theory of government all the different interests in the State will be properly protected; and I think there will be found sufficient numbers in the Convention to carry my plan through.

MR. BRENT, of Baltimore city, interposing, said, this is the proposition I am disposed to submit, which seems to correspond with the views of the gentleman. I call his attention to it.

Sec. 2. The House of Delegates shall (until the re-apportionment hereafter provided,) consist of eighty-seven members, to be apportioned among the several counties and the city of Baltimore, according to the ratio herein provided, and to their several numbers, (as shown by the last census of the United States,) which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, three-fifths of the slaves; and allowing to each county and Baltimore city, one additional delegate for every fraction of the ratio exceeding eight hundred. The ratio shall be seven thousand of said population in said city and counties, that is, to the said delegates shall be apportioned as follows:

Allegany 4, Anne Arundel 3, Baltimore city 24, Baltimore county 6, Carroll 3, Caroline 3, Calvert 2, Cecil 3, Charles 2, Dorchester 3, Frederick 6, Harford 3, Kent 2, Montgomery 2, Prince George's 3, Queen Anne's 2, St. Mary's 2, Somerset 3, Talbot 2, Washington 5, Worcester 3—total 87.

And it shall be the duty of the General Assembly every ten years computing from its next session to re-apportion the House of Delegates upon the basis of population as aforesaid, by dividing the several counties and the city of Baltimore into as many election districts as the number of delegates to be elected, the said districts to be equal in population as nearly as possible;